

Viva Las Vegas! Sin City meets Sunrise at foundation fundraiser

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Las Vegas in the 1950s and 1960s was a place where Frank and Dean and Sammy ruled, where elegant ladies and dapper men dined, drank champagne, watched the best in entertainment and could lose a fortune with the toss of the dice.

The Sunrise Theatre Foundation will take you back to that time and place on March 1, with the fundraising event "A Night in Vegas," which will take place at the Pelican Yacht Club in Fort Pierce.

This special night is packed with exciting events. A full buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.; diners will be entertained by the sounds of the band SeaWind, which will play until 8 p.m. From 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the "Night Club" opens with local comic favorites Casey and Spaz, as well as the headliner, comedian Steve Zimmerman. Then the band returns until 11 p.m. for dancing. If you crave even more excitement, the Foundation "Casino" is there with blackjack, craps, poker and roulette tables. A Silent Auction including guitars signed by performers who played at the Sunrise this past year is an added treat.

Christopher Cichorek is chair of the board of the directors of the Sunrise The-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SUNRISE THEATRE FOUNDATION

atre Foundation, which sponsors the event. He said the fun is to assist with funds for the Foundation's main focus, children's programming. That includes the summer theater camp. "We're doing something a little different," he said. "It's going to be 'in-house'; the theater will present the summer camp. That will make it more affordable. We'll support it financially and Savannah

Forbus-Murray will be the camp director. We're really excited about it."

Another program the Foundation supports is the "Happy and Hopeful" Ticket Program. "We give away tickets for regularly scheduled shows to children in need," he said. "We work with the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County, and they refer us to agencies. It's for children who wouldn't

have the opportunity (to see a live show). We typically do it for four to six shows with up to 25 children for each show."

You can't enjoy the theater if you can't get to it, and the Sunrise Foundation provides bus transport and pays for children to come during the daytime for specially scheduled shows.

"We trick them," Cichorek said. "They often have an educational slant. A magician may use science and math. The kids are entertained and they're learning. It makes learning fun."

Tickets for the event are \$125 each and for a limited time, if two tickets are purchased, the cost is \$225. Tickets are available at the box office, the theater website, or the Sunrise Foundation website.

Dust off your cool duds, prepare to party like it's 1950, and help a worthy cause. It sounds like a lot of fun.

The Sunrise Theatre Foundation presents "A Night in Las Vegas" March 1 at the Pelican Yacht Club, 1120 Seaway Dr., Fort Pierce, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. For tickets visit sunrisetheatre.com or [sunrisetheatrefoundation.com/a-night-in-las-vegas/](http://sunrisetheatre.com/sunrisetheatrefoundation.com/a-night-in-las-vegas/). The Sunrise box office is located at 115 S. Second St., Fort Pierce. Call 772-461-4775. ■



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